

Queen Anne's Reg: 1708, or, 1709. Separate Traders to Africa, [i]

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The Improvement of the African Trade farther Demonstrated by Separate Traders, in Answer to a Scurrilous Paper, called, The Falsities of Private Traders Discovered.

THE Computation of 25000 *Negroes per Ann.* carried to the Plantations by Private Traders, was grounded on the Value of their Exports, as well as the Number of Ships Employ'd in carrying them; for the Time of Nine Years in an Averidge, and not on the Six Years of War, when the *Spanish Trade* was lost, which took off Six or 7000 *Negroes per Ann.* and appears well-grounded from Political Arithmetick, with just Allowances, Confirmed by many Examples, of Ships Voyages, and Demonstration so plain, that the Separate Traders need not retire to Sophistry, False Arguments, and False Quotations, as the *African Company* have done, and appears by their Accounts of the Private Traders Exports, given into the Right Honourable the Council of Trade, as well as taken out of their own Books, and compared with their Printed Account, so full of Unjust Reflections, Published the 25th Instant, they differ near 40000*l.* and conceal the vast Exports of the Separate Traders in the Preceding Years of Peace, which stand thus, *viz.*

Account of 10 per Cent. Duty receiv'd of Separate Traders to *Africa*, between 1699 and 1707.

Account of Six last Years Exports, as quoted in the Companies Scurrilous Paper.

	Anno	l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.
In Peace,	1699	5961	7	11				
	1700	11584	10	7				
	1701	11353	10	9				
	1702	5363	8	3		37875	18	6
	1703	4413	6	2		44115	12	3
In War,	1704	3997	3	0		26527	7	11
	1705	3568	19	0		30651	7	6
	1706	3127	7	10		32144	19	6
	1707	3789	4	4		31986	16	8
		53158	17	10		203302	2	4

Whereof in Three Years of Peace 28899*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*
in Six Years of War 24259*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

Now the 10 per Cent. Duty paid by Separate Traders being a Guide to know the Value of their Exports, and deducting a small Matter of that Duty, being Five per Cent. paid for Dying Wood Imported, and some few Elephants Teeth, brought from between *Cape Blanco* and *Cape Mount*, which may probably amount to Two or 3000*l.* Value, or thereabouts, the Remainder appears to be 241000*l.* Exported by Separate Traders in those Years, instead of 203302*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* falsely alledged by the Company in their Printed Paper to be the true Sum Exported for Trade, which is near 38000*l.* less than was really Exported for Purchasing *Negroes*, and Building on a wrong Hypothesis every Part of the Inferences, must be false in Course.

But there being 531588*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* Exported by Private Traders in Nine Years, out of which Deducting Nine or 10000*l.* Value for Dye Wood and Elephants Teeth, &c. brought from between *Cape Blanco*, and *Cape Mount*, then there will remain for Purchasing *Negroes* 526000*l.* Exported in Nine Years, which doubled on the Coast makes 5*l.* per Head for Purchasing 210400 *Negroes*, and makes out 23383 *Negroes per Ann.* carried to the Plantations one Year with another in an Averidge, supposing they had been all Bought on the Dear Part of the Coast, where they did not exceed the usual Prices several Years of this Time, till Sir *Dalby Thomas*

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300.



Thomas was sent on Purpose by the Company to Ruin the Private Traders, by lowering the Prices of Goods, and giving more for Slaves than they, even when the Company had no Ships to carry them away, and hath been heard to say 'twas worth the Companies while to lose 100000 £. to Ruin the Private Traders. But 'tis not questioned but $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the Negroes being Bought out of the Influence of Forts, and cost the usual Prizes, will more than make up for Mortality, being about Five or Six per Cent. among Private Ships in an Averidge, and more than Increase the Number too.

Farther it appears by the Companies own Books of the 10 per Cent. Duty, that the Difference of the Prices of Goods Exported by the Private Traders and Company, sworn to by the Exporters, is at least 30 per Cent. cheaper than the Company, those Buying generally for Ready Money, and the Company Buying at long Time, for which they give Bonds always at a great Discount, but now at above 40 per Cent. so that 5% of the Private Traders Buys as much Goods as 7% of the Companies; as an Instance, a Commodity called Cowris, which is the same as Money at Widda, and great Part of each of the Ships Cargoes which go there must be composed of that Commodity, will cost the Company 8 £. per Hund. Weight now, tho' several Private Traders have by them Quantities Bought at East-India Sales at 4 £. 10 s. to 5 £. per Hund. Weight with Discount. The like Case happens also on the Coast of Africa, where the Company confine their Trade to 160 Miles Extent, and the Separate Traders range the Coast along and pick up most of their Negroes at usual low Prices; so that they Cost, one with another, 30 per Cent. less than the Companies.

To prove this to be Matter of Fact, in July 1706 a Private Ship Bound to the Gold Coast, where the great Noise is made of the Dearness of Negroes, Bought 305 Negroes, besides some Elephants Teeth, and Gold, and deliver'd into the Plantations 300 of them, and her Cargo, as appears on Oath of the Exporters, did not Cost above 1100 and odd Pounds. The same Ship hath Purchased her Cargo this Year on the same, or easier Terms, and lost but Three per Cent. by Mortality, Provisions for Negroes included both Voyages; and the same Traders usually find the same thing in their Course of Trade, for several Years, notwithstanding the false Insinuations of vast Sums paid for Provisions, and an Allowance of 15 per Cent. for Mortality of Negroes; which may be among the Companies Ships, which ly long on the Coast Spending their Provisions for want of Goods to Purchase their Loading.

From whence the Separate Traders have Reason to believe they have proved the Sum of 29300 per Ann. being the Sum affirm'd in the Companies Paper to be the whole of the said Traders Exports for Purchasing Negroes, is a designed, ill-grounded Forgery, as appears by their own Accounts, and that the true Sum sent out for Purchasing Negroes, after all Deductions for Six Years of War, appears to be 24100 £. which is 40166 per Ann.

Then if 1100 £. in Goods produces 305 Negroes, even at the dearest Places, how many does 40166; the Answer is 11166 Negroes, deducting Five per Cent. for Mortality, remains 10581 Negroes delivered into the Plantations, and is under 3 £. 15 s. per Head, first Cost in England, sent to Purchase them, supposing they had been all Bought in the dearest Part of Guinea; whereas there being but one Third Part of them Bought there, Allowance must be made for one Third Part of the Cost thereof towards Purchasing a greater Number by Three or 4000 Negroes at least.

But supposing there were purchased by Separate Traders, according to this malicious Insinuation, but 4883 Negroes in this time of War, 'tis almost twice as many more per Annum as the Company Imported in Peace and War both, being in an Averidge, as they say themselves, but 1850 Negroes per Annum, and within 200 Negroes per Annum of as many as they carried in between 1680 and 1688, when they were Exclusive.

And altho' the Separate Traders sent out 229400 £. in Two Years of Peace 1700 and 1701, and purchased at least 60000 Negroes those Years, yet the Company carried in but 1511 Negroes one Year, and 2045 the other of those Years; and whereas 'tis affirmed 180000 £. is required to purchase 30000 Negroes a Year, 'tis admitted, if under the Management of the Company, and cannot do neither, and the Private Traders would quickly be in as bad a Condition as the Company, if they Bought their Goods in England, and Negroes on the Coast, no better than the Company, and managed their Trade in the same manner as they do.

And as to the Insinuation of the African Company in a Joint Stock, being a National Constitution, that they keep great Magazines of Goods in their Forts for Trade; that Sugars in the Plantations are Dear, by Means of Negroes being Sold Dear, (which by the Way are but at from 9 s. to 16 s. per Hund. at Jamaica, and

and have been thereabouts a long time,) and occasions that Commodity to be brought from the *East Indies*, we say they being all of a piece with the false Quotation of the Separate Traders Exports beforementioned, ought to be answered with Contempt, and have only to offer, whether if many Sellers come to Market with *Negroes* at one time they may not be Sold Cheaper than by one Seller for a Monopolizing Society.

As to the Confusions in Trade are meant by Separate Traders, the Designs and Malice of the Company, and their Factors, that fire their Guns at the Natives, who go off to Trade with them, hindring them from carrying Corn and other Provisions for their Support by Bribes or open Force; and even some of them have Committed Piracy and Fellony to on Private Ships, as can be made appear; so that the Forts have proved an Obstruction to the Trade, a Den of Robbers, and a Common Nuisance which were designed by Parliament for its Protection.

As to the Companies Infinuations, that Policy and Friendship cannot be maintained with the Natives without Forts, the Separate Traders cannot conceive how their making continual Wars with them, Bribing one King to kill another, hindring them from Trading with Private Ships, and all this at the Expence of the 10 per Cent. Duty, can be a Means of Cultivating a good Understanding between them. And as to the Suggestion of the great Cost of Ammunition, Stores, &c. on this Account, we do not find when 'tis wanted against our Enemies, they have Shot to fit their Guns, nor Carriages for them, or Men to defend them, or Provisions to last a Siege of Four Days; all which is confirmed by *Gambo* and *Serra Leon* taken by open Boats without Opposition, but *Honesty being the best Policy*, had it been practis'd the Company needed not have been in the sad Condition they now are.

As to the Proportion of Trade proposed by the Company for themselves between *Cape Blanco* and *Cape Formosa*, there are Two Head Lands in *Africa* of that Name, the one to Windward of the Gold Coast, the other near *Angola*; and 'tis supposed they mean the latter, which takes in all the Trade except *Angola*, where 7 or 8 Ships may be loaden per Annum, with *Negroes* proper for the *Spaniards* only, and 100 Sail of Ships usually loaded per Annum in Peace, in the other part of *Guinea* cut out by the Company for themselves, may seek some other Trade, and our Woollen and other Manufactures be kept at Home; greatest Part of the Plantations lie uncultivated; the Customs for Tobacco and other Goods Decrease in Proportion, and the Benefit hereof would quickly appear in *Exchange-Alley*; the Companies Bonds would be reduced from 40 per Cent. to but 20 per Cent. Discount, their Bad Debts, and Thatcht Houses, would be a Solid Foundation for more *Wiseakers* to ingraft 4 or 5000 Shares on for the present Managers, to divide one among another by Way of Bottomry, or so; in short, the Stock now Sold at 6 l. per Share would rise prodigiously.

As to the Companies Exporting 70000 l. Value in Goods per Annum, when Exclusive, some Years of Peace, it appears by the Exports in Peace, since the Trade was laid open, that what was wanting of that Value in the Exports of the Company, the Private Traders more than Trebled; and the Private Traders Exports in an Averidge appear to be above 60000 l. per Annum, besides the Companies, one Year with another, in Peace and in War.

But supposing they did Export 70000 l. per Ann. when Exclusive, allowing out of that Sum a proportion for supporting Forts, Thatcht Houses, &c. according to their Fictitious Charge of 30000 l. per Annum given into the Council of Trade, then there remains but about 40000 l. per Annum Exported for purchasing *Negroes*, Elephant Teeth, and Gold, and is but one quarter of the Value of the Exports to *Africa* after the Trade was laid open, in time of Peace, as appears by the Custom-house Books.

The Condition and State of the Companies Forts, &c.

The Inlargement is only by a heap of Stones and Rubbish confusedly put together; taken by the French in open boats, James's Fort said to be Rebuilt and Enlarged. Serra Leon.

Taken by the French in open Boats, remains in Ruins, which was but a Store-House 40 Yards Square, Queen Anne's Point, One Man and no Guns.

Anishan, ——— a Negro-House.
Animabo, ——— Tumbled down.
Agga, ——— a Negro-House.
Shido, ——— a Store-house for Goods.
Winaba, ——— of no Strength.
Accra, ——— more Guns than Men.
Widda, ——— an Earth-work serves for a Store-house for Goods Three Miles from the Water.

Of no Strength — } Dicky's Cove,
Succundee,
once taken
by the Ne-
groes.
Built with 10 per Cent. Duty, Comenda.
Cann't defend Ships } Cabo-Corso Castle.
which draw much Water —
Washed down eve- } Fort-Royal.
ry Shore of Rain
and remains so —

By the above Description may be judged the Value of their Mighty Forts, and the Pretended Immense Sum with Interest thereon, laid out in Erecting and Repairing such Thatcht Houses: But it must be observed they have been more than fully reimbursed any Charge they have been at on them, as well as the first gun by the ^{Mr.} ~~John Crisp who~~ Cost, if ever any thing was paid by them, any more than by their Bankrupt ^{any thing for} ~~deceffors,~~ by having had that Trade Exclusive from the Year 1672 to 1698, in ^{was never paid} ~~any thing for~~ at Home, and on the few *Negroes* they carried to some of the Plantations ^{abroad,} ~~them by the A-~~ Selling them at what Price they pleas'd, to the great Prejudice of ~~Great-
African Company.~~ Britain and our Plantations.

~~Note,~~ The Trade and Forts have been so far from being preserved by any Money advanced by the Company, more than the 10 per Cent. Duty, that even all the Money which they own to have received of the New Subscribers in 1698 £. being 5700 and odd for 4758 Shares, at 12 £. per Share, ingrafted on their Rotten Bottom of bad Debts, which still remain, and now reckoned Part of their Quick Stock, and the 13 £. per Share called in at several times from their Members, hath been all again divided among themselves, *viz.* 61130 £. in Money, as they own, and the remainder being 170000 £. by Bottomry Bonds, given one another with 25 £. per Cent. advance on them, payable on arrival of e'er a one of their Ships.

And whereas they falsely suggest, that 3388 £. 7 s. 4 d. per Annum is the whole Sum the 10 per Cent. Duty paid by Private Traders hath amounted to a Year in an Averidge, which hath not answer'd the Carge of one Fort, 'tis such a Forgery, that none but an *African Company*-Man but would be ashamed to publish, as appears by the Account of the 10 per Cent. Duty, kept at the *African House* and delivered into the Council of Trade by themselves, which in Nine Years amounts to 87465 £. 9 s. 6 d. and is above 9500 £. a Year, part of which Sum paid by Private Traders they own to be 53731 £. 9 s. 6 d. and amounts to about 6000 £. per Annum; which Base Suggestion being a Specimen of their usual Practices, may guide Gentlemen in judging of their Unjust Actions.

And it is humbly hoped our Legislators will no longer Commit the Care of these Forts, and a Trade so nearly related to the Interest of *Great-Britain* and Plantations, to such who instead of protecting it, have used all the Ill Ways they could think of, to destroy their Fellow Traders, and even the Trade itself, notwithstanding the great Sums paid for its Support.

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Dr. Anne June